

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4838

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C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 1294

EXDIS

DEPT PASS COMICEDEFOR, CINCLANT AND SECDEF

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR MARR IC NATO

SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION NEGOTIATIONS - DRAFT MEMORANDUM
OF UNDERSTANDING

REF: (A) STATE 201414, (B) STATE 203946, (C) REYKJAVIK 1293

1. THIS IS SECOND IN SERIES OF TELEGRAMS ON WHICH URGENT
ANSWER REQUIRED BY 10 AM THURSDAY WASHINGTON TIME.

2. ANDERSEN SAID FONMIN WANTS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTAND-
ING, AS REVISED BY REFTTEL (B) TO BE FURTHER REVISED TO
ELIMINATE POINT 1(B) WHICH READS "DURING PEAK PERIODS OF
SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITY, THE UNITED STATES MAY TEMPORARILY
AUGMENT THE ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE." HE WANTS TO GIVE US
HIS ORAL ASSURANCE INSTEAD THAT WE CAN DO THIS. HE
CLAIMS INCLUSION 1(B) WILL CAUSE HIM SOME POLITICAL UNPLEASANT-
NESS FROM THE COMMUNISTS IN ICELAND. MY RESPONSE WAS THAT
WE MUST HAVE THIS IN WRITING SO THAT USG CANNOT BE LATER
ACCUSED OF VIOLATING ITS COMMITMENT TO REDUCE MILITARY
MANPOWER IF POINT 1(A) STOOD ALONE. I REMINDED ANDERSEN
FONMIN AGREED TO CONCEPT OF INCLUSION 1(B) DURING
OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 1973 NEGOTIATIONS AND I SAW NO REASON
NOW TO BE MORE CAUTIOUS THAN UNDER PREVIOUS LEFTIST GOVT.
I STATED FONMIN'S REQUEST IS INCONSISTENT WITH NEW GOVT'S
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DEFENSE PLATFORM. ANDERSEN AGREED WITH MY REMARKS BUT

ASKED THAT IF FONMIN IS ADAMANT ON ELIMINATING THIS FROM MOU, WOULD USG CONSIDER INCLUDING IT INSTEAD IN THE MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD. ANSWER BY DEPT REQUIRED ON THIS.

3. ANDERSEN DID NOT RAISE OBJECTION TODAY TO THE WORDS "SEEK TO" IN 1(A) OF DRAFT MOU. I WILL ASSUME WE ARE WILLING TO LEAVE THEM IN OR ELIMINATE THEM, WHATEVER ANDERSEN WANTS.

4. COMMENT: BEING SOMEWHAT FAMILIAR WITH LOCAL ICELANDIC POLITICS AND THE FONMIN I SUGGEST WE INSIST NECESSARY TO HAVE 1(B) OF MOU IN WRITING IN SOME DOCUMENT. I AM CERTAIN FONMIN'S REQUEST IS NOT SHARED BY PRIMEMIN WITH WHOM I HAVE A MEETING THURSDAY 6AM WASHINGTON TIME. I SHALL MENTION IT TO HIM BUT I WOULD STILL LIKE TO HAVE DEPT'S RESPONSE TO FONMIN'S AND ANDERSEN'S QUESTIONS AS STATED ABOVE.
IRVING

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE

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